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ABSTRACT

This Kids Count report provides statistical data on several indicators of child well-being in Newark, New Jersey. Indicators are grouped into six categories: (1) Demographics (including population, number of registered voters, income level, people living below poverty level); (2) Family Well-Being (including average number of children receiving public assistance, number of residents served by WIC, average number of children receiving food stamps, number of substantiated child abuse, family problem cases, and out-of-home placements); (3) Child Health (including number of births, percent low birth weight, percent receiving no prenatal care, percent unmarried mothers, number of births to women under 15, number of births to women 15-19, infant mortality rate per 1,000, number of child and teen deaths, number of children under 18 with AIDS and HIV, vaccination of 2-year-olds, and number of sexually transmitted diseases for children under 19; (4) Environmental Health (including lead poisoning cases, number of reported toxic and diseased waste sites, lead levels in drinking water, vacant lots converted into active community or school gardens); (5) Education (including number of students enrolled in public schools, student ethnicity, number of students receiving reduced or free breakfast/lunch, number of homeless students, attendance rate, student suspensions, criminal/violent incidents, number of students in after-school youth development programs, number of gifted and talented students, standardized test scores, dropout rate, post-graduation plans); and (6) Juvenile Justice (number of juvenile arrests for 1994 through 1998, including serious offenses). (EV)

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NEWARK kids count 1998

Produced by
Association for Children of New Jersey

Funded by
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The Prudential Foundation
The Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey

A Profile of Child Well-Being

PS 027875

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NEWARK KIDS COUNT 1998

A Profile of Child Well-Being

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Unified Vailsburg Services Organization
United Community Corporation
United District Neighborhood Coalition
United Way of Essex and West Hudson
Urban League of Essex County
Youth Consultation Service
Youth Development Clinic
10,000 Mentors

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INTRODUCTION

The 1998 Newark Kids Count data report is the third annual snapshot of child well-being in Newark, New Jersey. Through support from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, The Prudential Foundation and the Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey, Association for Children of New Jersey (ACNJ) presents the most recent data available to highlight the status of Newark's children. Although the data report does track several indicators and illustrates certain short term trends, Newark Kids Count 1998 does not provide analysis on the data or indicators documented in the report.

Newark's children face challenging conditions which shape their outcomes and impact the future of the city. By giving children a voice through statistics, Newark Kids Count serves as a resource for citizens, policymakers and elected officials so that they can monitor the well-being of Newark's children and implement local policies and activities which support their needs.

ACNJ is committed to producing Newark Kids Count so that it can capture incremental and sustainable positive changes for children across all indicators in the years to come. We must continue to broaden our awareness on the issues confronting Newark's children and create a city where all KIDS COUNT.

To show a child what has once delighted you, to find the child's delight added to your own, so that there is now a double delight seen in the glow of trust and affection, this is happiness.

— J. B. Priestley

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DEMOGRAPHICS

Population

North Ward		56,510
East Ward		54,570
West Ward		54,602
South Ward		55,202
Central Ward		54,337
Total Newark Population		275, 221
African American	56.3%	155,055
Hispanic	25.1%	69,204
Other	18.5%	50,962
Newark Population Under 18		78,493
Percent of Newark Total Population Under 18		28.5%
Newark 1996 Population Estimate		268,510
Projected Decline in Newark Population 1990-1996		6,711
Essex County 1997 Population Estimate		750,842
New Jersey 1997 Population Estimate		8,052,849

Newark represents 35.8% of Essex County's total population.

Newark represents 3.3% of New Jersey's total population.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census, Census Data, 1990, 1997.

The city of Newark has the 60th largest population in the United States.

Newark's density is 11,564 people per square mile.

Source: Newark Police Department, U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census, Census Data, 1990, 1997.

Number of Registered Voters

1996.....113,405
1997.....125,887
1999.....127,313

Change in number of registered voters 1996-1999
13,908

Source: Commissioner of Registrations Office, County of Essex. Dates used: 10/23/96, 9/22/97, 1/27/99

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	Newark	Essex County	New Jersey
Median Household Income	$21,650	$34,518	$40,927
Per Capita Income	$9,424	$17,574	$18,714
Percent of All Persons Below Poverty Level	26.3%	14.3%	7.6%
Percent of Female Headed Households Below Poverty Level	41.4%	29.2%	20.6%
Percent of Children Living Below Poverty Level	37.2%	21.9%	11.0%
Percent of Children Living With Single Parent	44.0%	31.0%	19.0%

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census, Census Data, 1990, 1994.

It is the family that gives us a deep private sense of belonging.
Here we first begin to have our self defined for us.

— Howard Thurman

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FAMILY WELL-BEING

Average Number of Children Receiving Public Assistance				
	AFDC 1996	TANF 1997	TANF 1998	Percent Change 1996-1998
Newark	34,913	29,078	25,305	-27.5%
Essex County	51,291	42,855	37,089	-27.7%
New Jersey	199,036	163,997	131,633	-33.9%

Newark's Share of Essex County Children Receiving TANF 1998.....68.2%
Newark's Share of Essex County Children Receiving TANF 1997.....67.9%
Newark's Share of Essex County Children Receiving AFDC 1996.....68.1%

Newark's Share of New Jersey Children Receiving TANF 1998.....19.2%
Newark's Share of New Jersey Children Receiving TANF 1997.....17.7%
Newark's Share of New Jersey Children Receiving AFDC 1996.....17.5%

Source: NJ Department of Human Services

In every child who is born, under no matter what circumstances, and of no matter what parents, the potentiality of the human race is born again.

— James Agee, with Walker Evans

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Number of Residents Served by WIC

	1996	1997	1998	Percent Change 1996-1998
Newark	12,486	14,724	13,791	+10.4%
Essex County	22,408	27,041	25,056	+11.8%
New Jersey	128,761	154,213	148,403	+15.2%

WIC Estimated Eligibles for Newark 1998.....25,158
WIC Estimated Eligibles for Newark 1997.....25,578
WIC Estimated Eligibles for Newark 1996.....26,191
Change in WIC Estimated Eligibles 1996-1998.....-1,033

Percent of Estimated Eligibles Served in Newark 1998.....54.8%
Percent of Estimated Eligibles Served in Newark 1997.....57.6%
Percent of Estimated Eligibles Served in Newark 1996.....47.7%
Change in Estimated Eligibles Served in Newark 1996-1998.....+7.1%

Newark's Share of Essex County WIC Clients 1998.....55.0%
Newark's Share of Essex County WIC Clients 1997.....54.5%
Newark's Share of Essex County WIC Clients 1996.....55.7%

Source: NJ Department of Health and Senior Services

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Real generosity toward the future lies in giving all to the present.

— Albert Camus

Average Number of Children Receiving Food Stamps				
	1996	1997	1998	Percent Change 1996-1998
Newark	45,147	40,299	36,856	-18.4%
Essex County	67,536	59,686	54,280	-19.6%
New Jersey	267,855	231,089	202,021	-24.6%

Newark's Share of Essex County 1998....67.9%
Newark's Share of Essex County 1997....67.5%
Newark's Share of Essex County 1996....66.8%

Newark's Share of New Jersey 1998.....18.2%
Newark's Share of New Jersey 1997.....17.4%
Newark's Share of New Jersey 1996.....16.9%

Source: NJ Department of Human Services

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	Newark	Essex County	New Jersey
Substantiated Child Abuse Cases 1997	1,590	2,291	11,065
Substantiated Child Abuse Cases 1996	1,624	2,443	10,537
Substantiated Child Abuse Cases 1995	1,206	1,841	9,279
Substantiated Child Abuse Cases 1994	1,355	1,977	9,519
Percent Change 1994 to 1997	+17.3%	+15.9%	+16.2%
Percent Change 1996 to 1997	-2.1%	-6.2%	+5.0%
Family Problem Cases 1997	1,989	3,208	20,427
Family Problem Cases 1996	1,755	2,767	17,902
Family Problem Cases 1995	2,872	4,231	24,183
Family Problem Cases 1994	3,432	4,883	26,586
Percent Change 1994 to 1997	-42.0%	-34.3%	-23.2%
Percent Change 1996 to 1997	+13.3%	+15.9%	+14.1%
Out of Home Placements 1998	1,457	2,015	9,045
Out of Home Placements 1996	1,369	1,667	8,275
Out of Home Placements 1995	1,304	1,871	8,347
Percent Change 1995 to 1998	+11.7%	+7.7%	+8.4%

Source: Division of Youth and Family Services, NJ Department of Human Services

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	1994	1995	1996	1997
Newark's Share of Essex County Substantiated Child Abuse Cases	68.5%	65.5%	66.5%	69.4%
Newark's Share of New Jersey Substantiated Child Abuse Cases	14.2%	13.0%	15.4%	14.4%
Newark's Share of Essex County Family Problem Cases	70.3%	67.9%	63.4%	62.0%
Newark's Share of New Jersey Family Problem Cases	12.9%	11.9%	9.8%	9.7%
Newark's Share of Essex County Out of Home Placements	N/A	69.7%	82.1%	72.3%*
Newark's Share of New Jersey Out of Home Placements	N/A	15.6%	16.5%	16.1%*

Note: * Indicates 1998 figures

Source: Division of Youth and Family Services, NJ Department of Human Services

No child is ever spoiled by too much attention. It is the lack of attention that spoils.

— Bessie Blake

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CHILD HEALTH

	Newark				Essex County			New Jersey		
	1994	1995	1996	Percent Change 1994 to 1996	1994	1995	1996	1994	1995	1996
Number of Births	5,565	5,293	5,086	- 8.6%	13,095	12,647	12,486	117,684	114,905	114,365
Percent Low Birth Weight	13.5%	13.1%	12.5%	-1.0%	11.0%	10.4%	11.0%	7.4%	7.4%	7.5%
Percent Receiving No Prenatal Care	8.0%	7.8%	8.3%	+.3%	5.1%	4.8%	5.0%	1.3%	1.1%	1.3%
Percent Unmarried Mothers	69.9%	68.7%	70.7%	+.8%	49.0%	47.5%	48.2%	27.6%	27.2%	27.1%
Number of Births to Women Under 15	48	29	27	-43.8%	66	50	36	285	227	208
Number of Births to Women 15-19	1,098	1,055	999	-9.0%	1,667	1,618	1,571	9,330	9,117	8,599
Infant Mortality Rate Per 1,000	15.8	12.7	14.9	-5.7%	12.5	9.3	12.8	7.7	6.7	6.9
Number of Child Deaths (1-14)	36	31	33	-8.3%	74	62	55	379	393	341
Number of Teen Deaths (15-19)	15	34	30	+100.0%	44	53	47	264	282	273

Source: New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services Birth Certificate File and Center for Health Statistics

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	1994	1995	1996
Newark's Share of Essex County Births	42%	42%	41%
Newark's Share of New Jersey Births	5%	5%	4%
Newark's Share of Essex County Births to Women under 15	73%	58%	75%
Newark's Share of New Jersey Births to Women under 15	17%	13%	13%
Newark's Share of Essex County Births to Women 15-19	66%	65%	64%
Newark's Share of New Jersey Births to Women 15-19	12%	12%	12%
Newark's Share of Essex County Child Deaths (1-14)	49%	50%	60%
Newark's Share of New Jersey Child Deaths (1-14)	9%	8%	10%
Newark's Share of Essex County Teen Deaths (15-19)	34%	64%	64%
Newark's Share of New Jersey Teen Deaths (15-19)	6%	12%	11%

Source: New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services Birth Certificate File and Center for Health Statistics

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Number of Reported Cases of Children Under 18 with AIDS				
	1996	1997	1998	Percent Change 1996 to 1998
Newark	151	159	166	+9.9%
New Jersey	696	752	781	+12.2%
1996: As of June 30, 1996 1997: As of September 30, 1997 1998: As of December 31, 1998				

Source: New Jersey Division of AIDS Prevention and Control, HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program, NJ Department of Health and Senior Services

Number of Reported Cases of Children Under 18 with HIV				
	1996	1997	1998	Percent Change 1996 to 1998
Newark	183	270	386	+110.9%
New Jersey	817	1,171	1,494	+82.9%
1996: As of June 30, 1996 1997: As of September 30, 1997 1998: As of December 31, 1998				

Source: New Jersey Division of AIDS Prevention and Control, HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program, NJ Department of Health and Senior Services

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Vaccination Coverage Levels of Two Year Olds

Percent Receiving 4:3:1 Series

	1995	1996	1997	Change 1995 to 1997
Newark	60%	63%	70%	+10%
New Jersey	76%	78%	78%	+2%
United States	75%	78%	78%	+3%

Newark's 1997 coverage level was the third lowest compared to all other states and selected urban areas.

Note: The Center for Disease Control defines two year olds as children ages 19-35 months old. The 4:3:1 series includes 4 doses of the tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis vaccine; 3 doses of the poliovirus vaccine; and 1 dose of the measles-mumps-rubella vaccine.

Source: Center for Disease Control, National Immunization Survey, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, June, 1996, July, 1997 and July 1998.

Health is a human right, not a privilege to be purchased.

— Shirley Chisholm

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Reported Cases of Sexually Transmitted Diseases for Children 19 and Under

Newark

	1995	1996	1997	Percent Change 1995 to 1997
Chlamydia	325	863	917	+182.2%*
Gonorrhea	296	246	728	+145.9%
Other	65	14	50	-23.1%
Total	686	1,123	1,695	+147.1%

*See glossary for explanation

Essex County

	1995	1996	1997	Percent Change 1995 to 1997
Chlamydia	524	1,330	1,444	+175.5%
Gonorrhea	398	387	1,048	+163.3%
Other	88	18	71	-19.3%
Total	1,010	1,735	2,563	+153.7%

New Jersey

	1995	1996	1997	Percent Change 1995 to 1997
Chlamydia	2,059	5,266	5,532	+168.7%
Gonorrhea	1,009	1,490	2,921	+189.5%
Other	183	57	180	-1.6%
Total	3,251	6,813	8,633	+165.5%

Source: STD Prevention and Control Program, NJ Department of Health and Senior Services

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Newark's Children and Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Newark's Share of Essex County's Chlamydia Cases in 1997	63.5%
Newark's Share of Essex County's Chlamydia Cases in 1996	64.8%
Newark's Share of Essex County's Gonorrhea Cases in 1997	69.5%
Newark's Share of Essex County's Gonorrhea Cases in 1996	63.6%
Newark's Share of Essex County's Total Cases in 1997	66.1%
Newark's Share of Essex County's Total Cases in 1996	64.7%
Newark's Share of Essex County's Total Cases in 1995	67.9%
Newark's Share of New Jersey's Chlamydia Cases in 1997	16.6%
Newark's Share of New Jersey's Chlamydia Cases in 1996	16.4%
Newark's Share of New Jersey's Chlamydia Cases in 1995	15.8%
Newark's Share of New Jersey's Gonorrhea Cases in 1997	24.9%
Newark's Share of New Jersey's Gonorrhea Cases in 1996	16.5%
Newark's Share of New Jersey's Gonorrhea Cases in 1995	29.3%

Source: STD Prevention and Control Program, NJ Department of Health and Senior Services

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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Newark's Children and Lead Poisoning

	1995	1996	1997	1998
Number of Children with Elevated Blood Lead (EBL)	622	378	366	656

Essex County reported 1,016 children with EBL in 1998. Newark's share of Essex County children with EBL in 1998 was 64.5%.

New Jersey reported 2,071 children with EBL in 1998. Newark's share of New Jersey children with EBL in 1998 was 31.7%.

Note: These children were screened and tested for lead in their blood. Venous blood sample test results for these cases indicated 20 micrograms or higher of lead per deciliter of blood.

Source: "Childhood Lead Poisoning in New Jersey: Annual Report, Fiscal Year 1998", NJ Department of Health and Senior Services

Number of Waste Sites Reported to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)

	1996	1997	1998	% Change 1996 to 1998
Newark	9	10	12	+33.3%
New Jersey	169	186	204	+20.7%

The ATSDR has the responsibility to conduct public health related activities at these sites.

Note: 1996 data as of April 30, 1996. 1997 data as of November 20, 1997. 1998 data as of January 26, 1999 and may include data from January, 1999.
"HazDat is a scientific and administrative database developed to provide information on the release of hazardous substances from Superfund sites or from emergency events and on the health effects of hazardous substances on human populations. HazDat contains environmental and health data found in the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry public health assessments, health consultations, toxicological profiles, and other documents." - Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, July 1995

Source: Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, HazDat

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Lead Levels in Newark's Drinking Water

March-April, 1998.....0.0126 mg of Lead Per 1 L of Water (mg/L)

November, 1997.....0.0096 mg of Lead Per 1 L of Water (mg/L)

January - June, 1992 .....0.0271 mg of Lead Per 1 L of Water (mg/L)

Acceptable Limit for Lead in Drinking Water .....0.0150 mg of Lead Per 1 L of Water

Source: Division of Sewers and Water Supply, Newark Department of Water and Sewer Utilities

The young do not know enough to be prudent,
and therefore they attempt the impossible —
and achieve it, generation after generation.

— Pearl S. Buck

Total Number of Newark Vacant Lots Converted Into Active Community or School Gardens

1997	1998
18	27

Note: The Greater Newark Conservancy and collaborating partners coordinated these vacant lot conversions into gardens.

Source: The Greater Newark Conservancy

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EDUCATION

Number of Students Enrolled in the Newark Public Schools

	1995-1996	1996-1997	1997-1998	% Change 1995-1998
Elementary	34,783	34,759	33,454	-3.8%
High School	11,022	10,222	9,738	-11.6%
Total	45,805	44,981	43,192	-5.7%

Source: The Newark Public Schools

Student Ethnic Breakdown in Newark Public Schools

	1995-1996	1996-1997	1997-1998*	% Change 1995 to 1998
Black	29,018	28,614	27,935	-3.7%
Hispanic	12,458	12,219	12,055	-3.2%
White	3,956	3,757	3,575	-9.6%
Other	373	391	359	-3.8%

* Student ethnic breakdown for 1997-1998 includes Newark evening, home instruction and pre-Kindergarten students in the Newark Public Schools which calculates to a total enrollment of 43,924 for the 1997-1998 school year.

Source: The Newark Public Schools

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Number of Newark Public School Students Receiving a Reduced or Free Breakfast/Lunch at School

1997-1998.....36,437
1996-1997.....27,483
1995-1996.....33,080
% Change 1995 to 1998.....+10.1%

82.5% of Newark Public School Students Received a Free or Reduced Breakfast/Lunch in the 1997-1998 School Year.

⁂

Number of Homeless Students

1995-1996	1996-1997	1997-1998	% Change 1995-1998
418	421	476	+13.9%

⁂

Newark Public Schools Attendance Rate

1996-1997	1997-1998
90.2%	90.9%

⁂

Number of Female Students, 1997-1998.....21,306
Number of Male Students, 1997-1998.....21,886

Source: The Newark Public Schools, Bureau of Child Nutrition, NJ Department of Education

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Student Suspensions

1995-1996	1996-1997	1997-1998	% Change 1995-1998
1,855	2,354	2,410	+29.9%

⁂

Number of Criminal/Violent Incidents

1996-1997.....1,193
1997-1998.....365
January 1, 1998-December 31, 1998.....403
%Change 1996-1997 to 1997-1998.....-69.4%

⁂

Number of Students in Newark Public Schools After School Youth Development Program

1997-1998.....6,500
1998-1999.....6,500

⁂

Number of Gifted and Talented Students in the Newark Public Schools

1997-1998	1998-1999	% Change 1997-1999
725	1,977	+172.6%

Source: The Newark Public Schools

Newark Public Schools Standardized Test Scores

Test	1995-1996		1996-1997		1997-1998	
	Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed
Early Warning Test (EWT) The EWT is administered to 8th grade students. The state specifies that 75% is considered the minimum level of proficiency.						
Reading	67.6%	32.4%	65.3%	34.7%	64.0%	36.0%
Writing	58.3%	41.7%	51.6%	48.4%	44.3%	55.7%
Mathematics	46.8%	53.2%	52.4%	47.6%	54.1%	45.9%
High School Proficiency Test (HSPT) The HSPT is administered to 11th grade students. The state specifies that 85% is considered the minimum level of proficiency.						
Reading	60.6%	39.4%	60.5%	39.5%	63.3%	36.7%
Writing	66.9%	33.1%	63.0%	37.0%	61.1%	38.9%
Mathematics	59.8%	40.2%	62.1%	37.9%	50.0%	50.0%

Source: The Newark Public Schools, NJ School Report Card 1997-1998 Update, NJ Department of Education

The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education.

— Martin Luther King, Jr.

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Dropout Report for High Schools in the Newark Public Schools			
Year	Total Enrollment	Total No. of Dropouts	Percent of Dropouts
1997-1998	9,738	693	7.1%
1996-1997	10,222	715	7.0%
1995-1996	11,022	881	8.0%
1994-1995	10,830	914	8.4%
1993-1994	10,803	886	8.2%
1992-1993	11,360	1,103	9.7%

Source: The Newark Public Schools

Number of Newark Children Who Participated in Hands-on Education Programs at the New Jersey Historical Society in 1998

5,392

Source: New Jersey Historical Society

Post-Graduation Plans of High School Graduates			
	1994	1996	1998
Total Number of Graduates	1,565	1,586	1,562
Four-Year College or University	37.6%	35.6%	33.0%
Two-Year College	20.2%	22.6%	21.8%
Other Type Two-Year College or Post Secondary School	2.6%	2.8%	7.7%
Employment	13.7%	11.0%	15.3%
Art, Business/Secretarial, Nursing, Tech., Trade or Vocational School	7.0%	10.7%	7.3%
Government Service (Armed Forces)	2.9%	4.5%	3.8%

Source: The Newark Public Schools

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JUVENILE JUSTICE

	Newark			Essex County			New Jersey		
	Part 1 Juvenile Arrests	Total Juvenile Arrests	Total Arrests	Part 1 Juvenile Arrests	Total Juvenile Arrests	Total Arrests	Part 1 Juvenile Arrests	Total Juvenile Arrests	Total Arrests
1998	419	2,658	33,146	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1997	593	3,554	36,785	1,994	9,664	55,690	20,518	83,417	448,647
1996	614	4,102	28,851	2,214	10,366	49,666	23,085	87,906	431,710
1995	815	4,156	26,401	2,537	11,178	53,946	24,048	91,831	438,502
1994	828	3,777	23,955	2,606	11,410	47,046	23,845	90,201	410,668

Percent change in Newark Total Juvenile Arrests from 1996 to 1998.....-35.2%
Percent change in Newark Total Juvenile Arrests from 1994 to 1998.....-29.6%
Percent change in Newark Part 1 Juvenile Arrests from 1994 to 1998.....-49.4%

Newark's Total Juvenile Arrests percent share of Newark's Total Arrests in 1998.....8.0%
Newark's Total Juvenile Arrests percent share of Newark's Total Arrests in 1997.....9.6%
Newark's Total Juvenile Arrests percent share of Newark's Total Arrests in 1996.....14.2%

Newark's Part 1 Juvenile Arrests percent share of Essex County's Part 1 Juvenile Arrests in 1997.....29.7%
Newark's Part 1 Juvenile Arrests percent share of Essex County's Part 1 Juvenile Arrests in 1996.....27.7%
Newark's Total Juvenile Arrests percent share of Essex County's Total Juvenile Arrests in 1997.....36.8%
Newark's Total Juvenile Arrests percent share of Essex County's Total Juvenile Arrests in 1996.....39.6%
Newark's Total Juvenile Arrests percent share of New Jersey's Total Juvenile Arrests in 1997.....4.2%

Note: Part 1 crimes are murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft and motor vehicle theft. These are indictable offenses, and are punishable with at least 1 year or more in jail. The perpetrator must go in front of a Grand Jury in the County Superior Court. Total arrests represent crimes committed by both juveniles and adults.

Source: Newark Police Department, 1995,1996 and 1997 NJ Uniform Crime Reports

NEWARK'S CHILDREN ASK US TO TAKE THE KIDS COUNT TEST...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO MAKE NEWARK KIDS COUNT?

- ☑ ARE **YOU** WORKING TO CREATE SAFE AND FUN PLACES FOR US TO PLAY?
- ☑ DO **YOU** SUPPORT QUALITY EDUCATION FOR US IN OUR COMMUNITY?
- ☑ DO **YOU** CONSIDER WHAT IS BEST FOR US, NOT ADULTS, WHEN YOU VOTE?
- ☑ DO **YOU** VOTE IN EVERY ELECTION?
- ☑ DO **YOU** ASK US ABOUT OUR HOPES, NEEDS AND OPINIONS? DO YOU LISTEN?
- ☑ ARE **YOU** SUPPORTING TEENAGERS IN THEIR TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD?
- ☑ WILL **YOU** CREATE QUALITY AFTERSCHOOL AND SUMMER PROGRAMS FOR EVERY CHILD?
- ☑ DO **YOU** READ TO US EVERYDAY AND TAKE US TO THE LIBRARY?
- ☑ DO **YOU** TALK TO YOUR LOCAL AND STATE LEGISLATORS ABOUT OUR NEEDS?
- ☑ ARE **YOU** WORKING TO MAKE OUR NEIGHBORHOODS AND SCHOOLS SAFE FOR US TO LIVE AND LEARN?
- ☑ DO **YOU** DEMAND POLICIES AND PROGRAMS THAT SUPPORT AND PROTECT US?
- ☑ ARE **YOU** AN ADVOCATE FOR NEWARK'S CHILDREN?

GLOSSARY/SOURCES

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) - Number of cases of children under 18 reported to the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services as of June 30, 1996, September 30, 1997, and December 31, 1998 (NJ Division of AIDS Prevention and Control, HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program, NJ Department of Health and Senior Services).

Birth Data - The 1996 birth data is from a preliminary 1996 data file. All births to New Jersey residents may not be included in these preliminary numbers (Center for Health Statistics, NJ Department of Health and Senior Services).

Births to Teens - The number of women under 15 and 15-19 who gave birth in 1994, 1995 and 1996 (NJ Department of Health and Senior Services). Children born to adolescents are more likely to be of low birth weight, to have health problems, and to suffer child abuse and neglect. Adolescent parents have fewer educational and career opportunities, thus perpetuating poverty for themselves and their children.

Child Abuse and Neglect - The number of substantiated abuse and neglect cases in 1994, 1995, 1996 and 1997. Data in 1996 may reflect changes in DYFS case handling standards. Modifications to case handling at screening and intake-due primarily to workers' new consciousness of risk to children living with substance abusing parents-has increased the proportion of reports classified as abuse and neglect relative to those classified as family problems. (Division of Youth and Family Services, NJ Department of Human Services). A substantiated case is determined when a DYFS social worker establishes that a child has been physically, sexually, mentally, or emotionally abused by a parent, guardian or other adult who has control or custody of the child, and that the abuse can cause or create a substantial risk of impairment or death to the child ("Children at Risk 1993 and 1994", "Children at Risk 1995 and 1996").

Child Deaths - The number of children ages 1-14 who died in 1994, 1995, and 1996(NJ Department of Health and Senior Services). Over one-third of child deaths are caused by motor-vehicle related injuries, infectious diseases, and other injuries, including those related to fires. These causes are related to risks in families and communities, such as the lack of well-developed interventions and services. (See Death Data). Note: Most counties and cities have relatively low numbers of child deaths.

Children Receiving Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC)/Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) - The number of children receiving AFDC benefits in 1996-January, February, March average. The number of children receiving TANF benefits in 1997 and 1998-March, July, November average (NJ Department of Human Services).

Children Receiving Food Stamp Benefits - The number of children receiving Food Stamp benefits in 1996-January, February, March average; 1997 and 1998-March, July, November average (NJ Department of Human Services).

Children Receiving Free and Reduced Lunch/Breakfast - Number of school age children participating in the National School Lunch Program. This benefit is based on family income guidelines and is not offered in every school district (Newark Public Schools, Bureau of Child Nutrition, NJ Department of Education).

Early Warning Test (8th Grade Students) - Used as a primary indicator for identifying students who may require instructional intervention in the areas of reading, writing, and math. 1997-1998 figures were calculated using NJ School Report Card data. (Newark Public Schools, NJ School Report Card 1997-1998 Update, NJ Department of Education).

Density - Number of people per square mile (Newark Police Department, U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census Data, 1990).

Death Data - The 1994, 1995 and 1996 death data are from preliminary files. All 1994, 1995 and 1996 deaths may not be reflected in the preliminary data (Center for Health Statistics, NJ Department of Health and Senior Services).

Family Problems - The number of cases of identified risk in 1994, 1995, 1996 and 1997. Data in 1996 may reflect changes in DYFS case handling standards. Modifications to case handling at screening and intake-due primarily to workers' new consciousness of risk to children living with substance abusing parents-has increased the proportion of reports classified as abuse and neglect relative to those classified as family problems (Division of Youth and Family Services, NJ Department of Human Services). Cases identified as family problem remain open for services after family intake. Such cases are situations that affect a child's well-being and growth without rising to the statutory definition of child abuse and neglect("Children at Risk 1993 and 1994", "Children at Risk 1995 and 1996", NJDHS).

High School Proficiency Test (HSPT) - A statewide assessment test taken in grade 11. It consists of three sections-reading, writing and math. It must be passed as a requirement for a high school diploma. Data represent cumulative percentage of enrolled, eligible students and excludes special education and limited English proficiency students (Newark Public Schools).

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) - Number of cases of children under 18 reported to the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services as of June 30, 1996, September 30, 1997, and December 31, 1998 (NJ Division of AIDS Prevention and Control, HIV/AIDS Surveillance, NJ Department of Health and Senior Services).

Infant Mortality Rate - The number of infants per 1,000 who died before their first birthday in 1994, 1995 and 1996 (Center for Health Statistics, NJ Department of Health and Senior Services). High rates of infant mortality are indicative of poor access to health care, lack of prenatal care, birth defects (including those caused by prenatal exposure to alcohol and drugs), and high rates of poverty.

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Juvenile Arrest - The number of juveniles arrested (ages 10-17) in 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998. The increase in Newark total arrests or the decline in Newark juvenile arrests could be attributed to increased numbers of police officers patrolling the city ("Crime in New Jersey, Uniform Crime Report" and Newark Police Department).

Lead Poisoning - Children who have tested at or above 20 micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood are considered to have unacceptably high levels of lead in their blood. Lead poisoning in children can lead to several health and developmental problems in life (Newark Department of Health, NJ Department of Health and Senior Services).

Low Birth Weight - Percentage of babies born weighing below 2,500 grams (5.5 lbs.) in 1994, 1995 and 1996 (NJ Department of Health and Senior Services). These babies have a higher death rate (see Infant Mortality Indicator) and are more likely to develop disabilities which create a greater need for medical services, special education, and lifelong support services.

Median Household Income - U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census, 1990.

No Prenatal Care - Percentage of all children born in 1994, 1995 and 1996 whose mothers reported receiving no prenatal medical care (Center for Health Statistics, NJ Department of Health and Senior Services). Such children are more likely to be of low birth weight (see Low Birth Weight indicator). Mothers who do not receive prenatal care have higher rates of maternal death, illness and complications, all of which have adverse implications for the child.

Out of Home Placements - The number of children placed in settings such as foster care, residential care or other out of home placements in 1995, 1996 and 1998. Newark data represent numbers as of July, 1995 and July, 1996 and 1998 (Division of Youth and Family Services, NJ Department of Human Services). Children who are placed in such a setting often lack the stability of a nurturing home life.

Per Capita Income - U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census 1990.

Population Statistics - U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census, Census Data, 1990, 1997.

Poverty Level - Defined by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as the threshold for the distribution of AFDC/ TANF and Food Stamp Benefits.

Registered Voters - Commissioner of Registrations Office, County of Essex, as of October 23, 1996, September 22, 1997 and January 27, 1999 .

Sexually Transmitted Diseases - Reported cases of sexually transmitted diseases for children under 19 to the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services for 1995, 1996 and 1997. In 1995 the reported cases of chlamydia and gonorrhea were obtained from documented lab tests of children receiving treatment. The 1996 reported cases of chlamydia and gonorrhea were obtained directly from the lab reports regardless of whether children received treatment. In other words, the 1996 and 1997 data show all reported cases, not just those receiving treatment (Sexually Transmitted Disease Control Program, NJ Department of Health and Senior Services).

Student Population - Number of students and ethnic breakdown in the Newark Public Schools in 1995, 1996 and 1997. (Newark Public Schools)

Teen Deaths - The number of adolescents (ages 15-19) who died in 1994, 1995 and 1996 (Center for Health Statistics, NJ Department of Health and Senior Services). A high percentage of adolescent deaths are caused by motor vehicle- related injuries, homicide, suicide, and other high risk behaviors. These causes are associated with risks in their families and communities, such as the lack of well-developed interventions and services. (See Death Data). Note: Most counties and cities have relatively low numbers of teen deaths.

Unmarried Mothers - Percentage of births in 1994, 1995 and 1996 to unmarried mothers. (NJ Department of Health and Senior Services)

Vaccination Coverage Levels - Percent of two year old children receiving the complete series of 4 doses of the diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis vaccine; 3 doses of the poliovirus vaccine; and 1 dose of the measles-mumps-rubella vaccine. Two-year olds are defined as children ages 19-35 months (Center for Disease Control, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, June, 1996, July, 1997, and July, 1998).

Wastes Sites - Number of reported wastes sites to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), HazDat as of April 30, 1996 and November 20, 1997. 1998 data as of January 26, 1999 and may include early 1999 data. These listed sites may not necessarily be hazardous to the public. Anyone concerned about the hazardous or nonhazardous status of a particular site should contact the ATSDR.

Water Lead Levels - The acceptable limit for lead in drinking water is 0.0150 mg of Lead per 1 L of water (Division of Sewers and Water Supply, Newark Department of Water and Sewer Utilities).

WIC - A special supplemental food program for women, infants, and children which provides food and nutrition screening and education to at-risk, low-income pregnant women, new mothers, infants and children under age five. Data is for the quarter ending June 30, 1996, the quarter ending June 30, 1997 and the quarter ending June 30, 1998 (NJ Department of Health and Senior Services).

For more information about the Newark Kids Count Initiative, please contact Gina Lucas or Becky Cheslow at ACNJ at (973) 643-3876.

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